

# Propagation

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Newsletter

OCTOBER 2006

More satire for your amateur radio buck

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Thinking About KARS Stuff

Dear KARS members and Friends,

The writer has been somewhat out of circulation regarding Amateur Radio over the past three weeks. This was because of a happy family circumstance – the marriage of our son. Since I don't have too much experience with weddings, there was a lot to learn. Additionally, there was a whole new extended family to meet, and a lot of company here at the home QTH. Now the last of the company is gone, and it's good to be back to the boring and normal routine!

I wasn't actively hamming, so I used spare moments to think about KARS club administrative stuff. This was partly from input that I have received from several members about "where we are going with the club". It's interesting that we have a wide diversity of opinion on the future of the club. Some think we should become a "repeater club", and embrace all the bells and whistles available on repeaters (auto-patch, paging, IRLP, etc.). Others think we should concentrate on being a social club, and do more group activities with friends and family. And a few say that we should get more involved in operating events.

The incumbent club officers developed a Platform

*(continued on page 3)*

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT--N7JU

*Editor's note: This is one of those months where N7JU was occupied with important matters, and has postponed his report until next month. Therefore, I have chosen to use John's column for an item not FROM John, but ABOUT John.*

*Some of you may be aware that several months ago, I joined the KARS-sponsored ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner (VE) team lead by John Hollar (N7JU). This is the group that administers amateur radio licensing exams for our local area. This group has enabled a significant number of new hams to get their first licenses, and others to upgrade their licenses. All members of this group deserve recognition (which we will cover in a future edition of the newsletter), but at this point in time, I want to acknowledge the special efforts of the aforementioned John Hollar. He deserves special attention for service above and beyond the call of duty. In a recent exam session, we, as a group, neglected to properly complete a document that, when filed with the FCC, would have given a license to a new ham. The document required signatures of three volunteer examiners, and somehow, with the hub-bub of the evening, we neglected to affix our signatures to the document. The following day, John, as leader of our team noted the omission as he was checking the paperwork for submission. John could have easily taken the easy way out, and waited until our next get-together to collect the*

*(continued on page 3)*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Unaided Human Flight  
*(see page 4)*
- Voter Frog  
*(see page 4)*
- Nonsense  
*(see page 4)*



Propagation is published monthly by the KOOTENAI Amateur Radio Society (KARS). The club is located in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho and serves the North Northern Idaho and the Spokane, Washington areas

KARS operates voice repeaters on 146.980 and 444.775 MHz and a packet repeater on 145.510 MHz. KARS normally holds meeting at 1900 hrs, on the second Monday of each month in the Shep Rock Building at the Coeur d' Alene Airport.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$12.00 (individual) and \$18.00 for a family membership. Contact the Treasurer (see page 6) to join KARS.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
09 October at 7 p.m. (Monday)	KARS monthly meeting	Kootenai County Airport (Shep Rock Building)
16 October at 7 p.m. (Monday)	ARES/RACES meeting	Kootenai County Sheriff's Department
Every Wednesday at 8 a.m.	Donut Day	Rathdrum Super 1 store (on Highway 53)

#### Next KARS Meeting:

**Monday, 09 October 2006 at  
7:00 p.m. In the Shep Rock Building at  
Kootenai County Airport**

#### Directions to the KARS meeting:

**Take U.S. Highway 95 to Miles Avenue (Miles is about one mile North of Hayden Avenue). West on Miles to the Airport gate. Through the gate (requires access code--see KARS president), bear left to the Shep Rock Building.**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*(continued from page 1)*

("Encourage, Manage, Promote, Prepare") that concentrates on what we would like to do during the current year.

But we would like to have more dialog with our membership on what direction the club should take in the long term. Your input is always welcome, whether by e-mail, suggestion box, or in an "eyeball QSO".

73 to all!  
Ed, AI7H

*Editor's note: Congratulations to Ed and his family for the nuptials, and our best wishes to the bride and groom.*

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*(Continued from page 1)*

*needed signatures, or he could have mailed the paperwork to each of the three examiners one at a time to get the signatures.*

*Instead, John, with the interests of the new ham in mind, took the time and effort to contact all three examiners, make arrangements to meet with each, and then drove all over town to get the three missing signatures. John did this so that the new ham would not have to endure a delay in getting his new license and new call sign. That's just the sort of fellow he is.*

*Three cheers for John Hollar--he is a master of customer service, and I am proud to serve with him as part of the VE team. Brik-a-brak-a, brik-a-brak-a, sis-boom-bah; John Hollar, John Hollar, rah-rah-rah!*

*--your editor*

## HOW TO UNDERSTAND LIFE

Your life is controlled by laws of nature. The Law of Gravity is one such law. Others are listed below.

- **CLARKE'S THIRD LAW:** Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.
- **LAW OF CONTINUITY:** To be considered valid, experimental results should be reproducible--they should all fail in the same way.
- **RYAN'S LAW:** Make three consecutive guesses that turn out to be correct, and you will have established yourself as an expert.

More laws of nature will appear in future editions of the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society newsletter.

## Upcoming VEC/VE Licensing Exams for Our Area

- **09 October (Monday)** just before regularly scheduled KARS meeting (meeting begins at 7 p.m.) at the Kootenai County Airport in Hayden, ID. By appointment only--no walk-ins. Exact starting time will depend on what exam elements are covered. Contact John Hollar (N7JU) at 208.765.5470 for appointment.
- **12 October (Thursday)** at 5 p.m. Trading Company store (formerly Tidyman's Grocery), 13014 E. Sprague Avenue (corner of Sprague and McDonald), Spokane Valley, WA.  
Contact Mary Qualitieri (AA7RT) at 509.991.2192 or aa7rt@arrl.net
- **21 October (Saturday)** at 9:30 a.m. By appointment only--no walk-ins. In Sagle, Idaho.  
Contact Russ Arndt (AA7XM) at 208.265.4534 after 8 p.m. or russell.arndt@verizon.net
- **25 October (Saturday)** at 7 p.m. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Avenue, Spokane Valley, WA.  
Use far east entrance on 32nd Avenue--room location to be announced.  
Contact Betsy Ashleman (N7WRQ) at 509.448.5821 or n7wrq@aol.com

## IN AND BEYOND HAM RADIO

Readers of the KARS newsletter are a diverse group with interest in and beyond ham radio. This column is intended to satisfy the natural curiosity of that group, covering subjects both in and beyond ham radio.

Let's start with this tidbit : some months ago, it became apparent that there was some trouble (un-toward behavior on the part of some newer users) on the 147.08 MHz repeater. The problems were quickly quelled due to the intervention and mentoring of some of the senior members of the local ham community, and the good response on the part of those to whom the mentoring was directed. Now comes the story of a ham in Southern California who was less receptive to attempts to correct his problematic (and illegal) on-air operating habits. Jack Gerritsen (KG6IRO), whose amateur radio license has now been revoked, reaped what he had sown. On 18 September, 2006 he was sentenced in federal court to seven years in prison and fined \$15,225 for failure to obey FCC rules and regulations governing amateur radio and other communications services. Gerritsen's offenses were serious and repeated, and in no way do I mean to compare what happened with the 147.08 MHz repeater with Gerritsen's acts, but all hams should take heed: violations of the rules of "our game" can have serious consequences. The FCC is watching and taking action in other similar cases, as well. Earlier this year, official FCC warning letters were sent to four licensees in Texas after an on-going on-air dispute involving allegations of deliberate interference with amateur communications and slander. The FCC warned the four hams involved that their "voice privileges" could be revoked or restricted, and that they could be subject to license revocation and fines of \$10,000 each if they continued to use amateur radio frequencies to carry-on the dispute. We are waiting to hear whether or not the FCC's action to stop the "degrading use of amateur radio" was successful.

Now, for a bit of fun. Last month, I promised to reveal in this month's newsletter, the secret to un-aided human flight. Just to make sure that all readers understand the term "un-aided human flight," let me clarify. I am talking about humans flying without airplanes or any other mechanical contraption; humans flying without the assistance of engines or motors or artificial wings or lighter-than-air gases. Now, with that understanding, let me return to the issue at hand. Here are simple instructions that, if followed, will enable you to fly:

Stand upright, but in a relaxed manner. Loosen your muscles by gently shaking your arms and torso while easily jogging in place with your legs. Continue this until you are physically and mentally "warmed-up." For the next step, concentrate your attention, but do not force yourself--remain relaxed. From this upright standing position, throw your body to the ground, but miss hitting it (the ground). If you have followed the procedure correctly, you will now find that you are flying. If you think about it, it is the only thing that could happen. With practice, you will develop the skills necessary to fly in the direction and at the speed of your choice--up, down, right, left, fast, slow, et cetera. Don't worry if your first flight wasn't as successful as it might have been--some people are natural-born flyers, and others have to practice the technique before they become masters. (Thanks to the writer D.A. for this information.)

**Investment Opportunity:** all hams must manage their finances to take maximum advantage of life in these times. That means taking advantage of investment opportunities when they come along. Here, for your benefit is one such opportunity: I plan to start a company to manufacture a product that I am sure will be a smashing success in the marketplace. I am sure of this because the need for this product is clear. As you know, hunters (deer hunters, caribou hunters, moose hunters, etc.) have taken to the use of camouflage in a big way in recent years. Their clothing is camouflaged, their weapons are camouflaged, even their transport vehicles are camouflaged. Well, I mean to even the score: my product will be suits of camouflage clothing that can be worn by the deer, caribou, and moose! Isn't that a great idea? Camouflage for the hunters, and camouflage for the hunted! What is good for the goose is good for the gander! Hey---I just thought of *another* great idea!---Camouflage suits for geese and ducks and quail and pheasant! I'm telling you--this camouflage idea could be a gold mine! What do you mean "who will pay for the camouflage suits for animals? Haven't you ever heard of PETA??? I will be selling shares of common stock in my company at \$100 per share with a minimum subscription of 1000 shares per subscriber. You had better move quickly on this before all available shares are sold out.

Speaking of financial responsibilities, have you ever felt slightly gypped when you buy something with hard-earned cash, and then find that what you got for your money was not all that it could be?

(continued next page)

I will be circulating a petition, (and I am asking for your signature) demanding that the Idaho state legislature enact a law requiring a rebate for buyers of Swiss cheese--I am sick and tired of paying not only for the cheese, but also for all of those holes. I demand compensation for those holes. The more holes there are, or the bigger the holes are, the larger our rebate should be! Oh, and what about donuts and bagels???

On another matter of ethics and responsibilities: I have been hearing a lot about the issue of "voter frog" on the radio and on the television lately. I am not sure what it is, but most of the responsible and trustworthy people I hear talking about it are against it. I don't know why frogs are voting (as I understand it, frogs eat insects, and I have seen a lot of insects over the past summer, so I am pretty sure there is no shortage of food for frogs). Again, I am not sure what "voter frog" is, but following the lead of those who do seem to understand it, we at the Editorial Board of the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society Newsletter have decided to take a firm and un-yielding stand against "voter frog." Down with "voter frog!" (*Background conversation: What? No--I am sure they were saying "voter frog." What? You think the word ends in "d" ? No--"voter" ends in "r," not "d."*)

**Volunteer Employment Opportunity:** as you know, the KARS Summer Picnic was cancelled this year, but we mean to get back on-track next year. The 2007 picnic will include a KARS Idaho Derby and Steeplechase, with KARS members serving as both horses and jockeys. We will need a racetrack bugler to start the event. If you have a pair of knee-high black boots, a pair of red pants, a white long-tailed formal jacket, a black top hat, and a bugle, we need your help. You will be required to sound "*Call to the Post*" in loud, brassy tones before each race--contact us now! By the way, if you are interested in serving as a horse or a jockey or both for the KARS Idaho Derby or the KARS Idaho Grand National Steeplechase, sign-up at any of the next KARS monthly meetings. To serve as a horse or jockey, you should be appropriately athletic and well-muscled for your size. Fellows like Lee Hopkins, Jack McElroy, and Jim Miller are the sort of men I have in mind for this event, but I am sure there are others who qualify as well. Yes, I have heard that several members claim to be studs, but that is a different activity than that which would enable them to excel as racing animals.

If you carefully examined the Calendar of Events on page 2 of this newsletter, you may have no-

ticed that the Monthly Coffee Klatch (previously held at the Old European Breakfast House) is no longer listed as a KARS event. I heard from several KARS members that the monthly event was ended because of low and dwindling turn-out. If this is true, we should not be too surprised--after all, some of today's best scientists predict that even the universe will come to an end someday, in either a slow, withering heat death, or in a spectacularly massive explosion. Today, the coffee klatch; tomorrow, the universe. As to whether the information above reflects the true reason the coffee klatch ended, we do not know for sure. There are rumors that the management of the host business expelled the KARS gang because of the excessive number of bar-room brawls and back-alley shoot-outs. The full story will probably never be known.

With all the news lately about *e. coli* contaminated spinach, has anyone given any thought to the risks Popeye is under?

More sense and nonsense will be forced upon you in next month's newsletter. Standby.

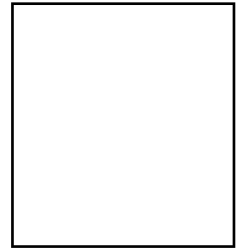
---your humble editor

"Vini, vidi, vici"



KARS member Lee Hopkins (AA7AF, formerly K700J) and friends proving that KARS people have diverse interests.

KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
PO BOX 5222  
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Deliver to:



***Boo!!! This is the October 2006 Issue.***

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**STOLEN HUMOR**

“Does anyone know what this is?” ask a visiting firefighter while holding up a smoke detector in front of a class of third-graders. One of the little tykes in the class responded “Sure--that’s what tells mom when dinner is ready.”

A mother was reprimanding her little girl for disrupting a church service. “Julie, do you understand why you need to be quiet in church?” ask the mother. Little Julie replied, “Because Daddy is asleep?”

*“Borrowed” from TIDBITS issue 339.  
(Don’t tell anyone.)*

**DISCLAIMER**

Unless otherwise indicated, the material presented in this newsletter is fully the responsibility of the editor, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of any other member of KARS.